

United States Senate Youth Program U.S.S.Y.

Michigan high school students who desire to learn more about the operations of the Federal Government may apply for the annual United States Senate Youth Program (U.S.S.Y.). Sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, U.S.S.Y. brings two students from each state to our nation's capital for *one week* in March of each year. While in Washington D.C., the students meet their state senator, *and* will be immersed in Washington activities throughout their week's stay. Visits to the Senate, House of Representatives, the Supreme Court and the Pentagon are interspersed with visits to various Smithsonian museums. Delegates will hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense and others.

To apply for the U.S.S.Y. program, junior and seniors should contact their school guidance counselors at the beginning of the school year. Students will receive guidelines regarding participation, as well as an application and an essay question to which they must respond. One first-round winner will be selected at each high school that chooses to participate. Selections will be made by following guidelines designed by the Michigan Department of Education staff. First-round winner's information is due at MDE in October.

In the second round a panel of judges will select two delegates and two alternates to represent Michigan in Washington D.C. Selections will be made based on the MDE selection guidelines. Delegates, alternates, and other participants will be notified of their selection status by the end December.

At both the first and second round, selection will be based on the following four criteria:

- ❖ Achievement and leadership ability (demonstrated and potential);
- ❖ High scholastic standing;
- ❖ Community involvement;
- ❖ Culturally diverse representation.

For more information, students should contact their high school Counselors/Principal in the Fall of the school year. You may also contact Mr. David Mills, Advanced and Accelerated Consultant for the Michigan Department of Education. You can reach Mr. Mills by phone at 517/373-4213, facsimile at 517/241-0197, or email at millsd@michigan.gov.

**United States Senate Youth Program
Schedule for 2004 – 2005**

Early September 2004	Program guidelines sent to Michigan high schools
Mid September 2004	Students contact high school guidance counselors
October 22, 2004	First round selection materials due at Michigan Department of Education
October/ Early November	Second round reviewers will judge applications submitted to MDE
Mid-December 2004	Delegates, alternates and other are notified of selection status
January 2005	Delegates receive packet from William Randolph Hearst Foundation
February 26 - March 5, 2005	Delegates travel to Washington, D.C.